

# Campbell Patersons for collectors of NEWSLETTER New Zealand Stamps

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## NEW ZEALAND NOTES AND COMMENTS by WARWICK PATERSON

### A VISIT FROM THE WORKS DIRECTOR OF HARRISON AND SONS, LONDON

Auckland philatelists were recently treated to a real surfeit of "inside" information from none other than George York, C.B.E. Mr. York is an employee of Harrison and Sons, the British Security Printers who have produced so many of New Zealand's stamps over the past thirty years. Among his numerous distinctions Mr. York has been Works Director in charge of production of British stamps at Harrison's factory in High Wycombe, Bucks, for the past 25 years and has sat on the British Stamp Advisory Council as Technical Advisor for a similar period. The members of the Auckland Philatelic Societies were in for a rare treat when they convened a special meeting to welcome Mr. York on his way through to Wellington for talks with NZ's Postal Authorities. The talk he gave us concentrated particularly on present and future developments likely to affect New Zealand's stamps and I give notes on some of the most interesting pieces of information here. Students of modern printing methods should take particular note, as much of what Mr. York told us will most assuredly be reflected in NZ modern varieties of the near future.

The overwhelming impression which one gets from listening to Mr. York is of the dedication of all at Harrison's in producing a superb job. Mr. York is an advocate of the closest possible liaison between postal administration and printer. Given this, he points out that the improvement in the quality of the end product is immediate and obvious. Needless to say, quality of designs helps! The recent Jane Austin commemoratives of G.B. were originally presented as art work in the form of miniature stamp-sized paintings. The printing staff were so enchanted with them that they proceeded with enthusiasm to produce a lovely issue. Look at these stamps again with this in mind.

The trend towards offset printing processes may now be tailing off. Harrison's have recently commissioned what must be one of the most sophisticated pieces of stamp printing machinery in the world - a machine they call JUMELLE, which combines three recess-engraved printing units or cylinders with seven photogravure cylinders. Thus, issues may now be produced combining these two processes in stamps which will certainly overshadow anything we have seen before in quality and effect. The first NZ issue to be produced by JUMELLE was the 1976 Xmas set (purely photogravure) with its distinctive interpane gutters. Apart from its sheer size

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and versatility JUMELLE incorporates some interesting modern printing features. The photogravure plates used are the "wrap around" type rather than those built up in copper on cast bases. The photogravure operation uses an inking process which involves the complete immersion of the cylinders in an ink-filled trough. The machine is capable of two jobs at the same time, using different combinations of the cylinders and working at different ends of the machinery. Both printing and perforating are carried out "on the reel" and the latter uses a rotary perforating drum which is engaged after the machine has been started. All printing and perforating operations are controlled by "autotron" electronic scanning (computerised) mechanism. One major advance in this and other printing machinery over the past few years is in the use of an "electrostatic assist". At the actual printing stage of the process an electrostatic charge is passed through the impression roller as the paper passes between it and the printing cylinder. This has the effect of drawing the ink (I'm no physicist - don't ask me how!) out of the recesses in the printing cylinder and onto the paper surface. The big advantage from this appears to be that the printing cylinders can be run at about a quarter the pressure of previous methods and this allows for faster running of the machinery, quicker correction of errors in colour registration and less plate wear. Various other devices are built into JUMELLE including one which reportedly automatically sprays any missing colour sheets with black ink - the missing colour, like the watermark may be on the way out! The good old doctor blade is still in use by the way - this method of cleaning surplus ink from the surface of the photogravure plate appears to be here to stay.

Something of the evolution of paper use with Harrison's also proved of interest. Harrison's it seems place a great emphasis on the development of improved stamp printing papers and in fact produce all of their own papers as well as some for other printers. It appears that the insistence of various governments on the use of stamp papers carrying watermarks resulted in extremely high pressures having to be used to print on them (presumably to transfer the ink equally into the depressed areas of the watermark as elsewhere). It was found that such pressures often distorted the papers and such were the difficulties that chalk-surfaced papers were developed. It had been found that chalk-surfaced papers stood up to high printing pressures and produced a good result even where a watermark was present. The fact that in chalk-surfaced papers the watermark is often nigh invisible was just another problem and it now seems that this may have contributed to the discontinuation of watermarked papers. It appears now, however, that very soon we shall see a return to unsurfaced papers with the lighter printing pressures now possible. Not least among the problems of selecting papers is finding one which will take the perforations well. Clearly, the trials and tribulations of a stamp printer are many. If Mr. York was successful in his visit to Wellington - and I sincerely hope he was - we may soon see more of the magnificent products of the JUMELLE machine.

FIRST PICTORIAL 3d - A MAJOR UNRECORDED VARIETY  
by Colin Hamilton

To the best of my knowledge there has been no recorded instance of the 3d Huia's with compound perforations (although mixed perms exist in the Cowan watermarked paper issue of 1906). Furthermore I know of no record of the use of a machine gauging 14 in the perforating of any value of the First Local Print Pictorials, that is the issues of 1899-1902 on unwatermarked paper.

Evidence of either of the above forms would of itself be remarkable, three-quarters of a century after the currency of the issue, but the discovery of a stamp embodying both is verging on the incredible. Yet I have recently seen just such a stamp - a First Local Print 3d, perforation 11 x 14 regular compound. Of course an item of such potential philatelic importance requires close and critical examination from every possible point of view:

- (i) The paper. This is absolutely typical of one of the several unwatermarked grades of the period, and is certainly much too thick and soft to be from an unwatermarked portion of the selvedge of a sheet of the later Cowan paper (see also (iii) below).
- (ii) The colour and quality of the print. Again it is totally typical of the unwatermarked issues.

- (iii) The postmark (the copy is a used one). Coin circle type of Otahuhu. Once again precisely what one might expect, and the date, 27 JE 02, is especially significant for two reasons. Firstly it conclusively "ties" the stamp to the unwatermarked paper era, since the Cowan watermarked paper 3d was not issued until August 1902. The second reason I will deal with in (iv) below.
- (iv) The perforations themselves. Perhaps most important of all, and they too satisfy the most critical eye. In particular the vertical perfs - those gauging 14 - are neat and clean-cut, and it is in this connection that the date again assumes a special relevance. The '14' machines first came in use about November 1901, and the perforations of the earliest issued stamps (the 'Pirie' paper ½d green Mt. Cook and 1d Universal, Flb and G2b) have this same neat and clean-cut appearance, whereas in all stamps subsequently perforated by these machines, the perfs were generally noticeably ragged.
- (v) General appearance. Again this is satisfactory, from the point of view of one who is seeking to question authenticity. The stamp is neither particularly well-centred nor wildly off-centre. It is neither outstandingly pristine clean, nor notably grubby or tatty. Its postmark carries not the slightest suggestion of 'c.t.o.' or 'per favour'. In short it is everything one would expect of a perfectly genuine stamp, even to the extent of having a couple of shortish perfs and a faint vertical crease.

So all things considered, recognition of this so far unique stamp by a major new Catalogue listing is in my opinion fully justified - a view, incidentally, shared by our Catalogue Editor, Mr. Campbell Paterson, who has also examined the stamp.

How did it come about? I offer a possible explanation - that the stamp came from a sheet which was originally perf 11 x imperf vertically (a variety which it should be noted is known to exist on E9b); that the defect was noticed some time later, but before the sheet was issued; that the sheet was withheld for the perforating to be completed - all at a time (late 1901 or early 1902) when the '14' machines, still nearly new, were engaged in the perforating of the Pirie paper ½d and 1d. Since almost certainly only a single sheet was involved it would obviously not, I suggest, be worth the trouble of setting up another (11-gauge) head, hence the sheet would be run through the machine in use.

#### OFFICIALS

##### 1d UNIVERSAL

- 331 (a) G07a Booklet Plate Complete pane from the Official Booklet...\$3.00  
 (b) G07a Ditto Single mint .....50¢  
 (c) G09a Waterlow Plates Perf 14 Block of four superb .....\$2.50  
 (d) G09a Ditto Fine single .....50¢  
 (e) G010a Royle Plate, p.14 Lovely single .....40¢  
 (f) G011a Surface Printed Fine block of four .....\$25.00  
 (g) G011a Ditto Fine single.....\$5.00

#### 1898 PICTORIAL OFFICIALS

- 2d PEMBROKE PEAK - OFFICIAL  
 109 (a) Mint E06b Purple and Red Purple in superb pairs.....\$2.00  
 (b) E06b Ditto singles of these shades (2) Mint.....\$1.00  
 (c) E06b Ditto single used of each shade (above) (2).....40¢
- 3d HUIAS OFFICIAL  
 110 (a) E09d Mint single copy in fine condition.....\$2.00  
 (b) E09d Used fine single.....40¢
- 6d KIWI RED OFFICIAL  
 111 (a) E014g Mint Lovely copy in perfect condition.....\$20.00  
 (b) E014g Ditto Used A really magnificent block of four fine dated used unrepeatable!.....\$27.50  
 (c) E014g Ditto Fine used single.....\$7.00

COMMEMORATIVES - SOME BLOCKS

- 306 (f) S28a - 1½d Sovereigns block. Superb ..... 60¢  
 (g) S30a - 2½d Waitangi - finest block ..... 75¢  
 (h) S33a - 5d HMS Britomart Fine block .....\$3.00  
 (i) S35a - 7d Council - used block .....\$7.50  
 (j) S38a - 1/- Kauri. Super block .....\$3.00

COMMEMORATIVES (POST WAR)

All the following offers are in the finest possible used blocks of four. Many of the stamps have become scarce in their own right - in blocks of four seldom or never seen!

- 307 (a) PEACE ISSUE 1946. A set of blocks - not complete - but that's up to you - they're lovely! Includes ½d, 1½d, 3d, 5d, 6d, 1/- .....\$5.00  
 (b) OTAGO CENTENNIAL. Complete in five blocks .....\$1.50  
 (c) CANTERBURY CENTENNIAL - 3d, 6d, 1/- in super blocks .....\$3.00  
 (d) CORONATION Again complete in matching fine used blocks (5) .....\$12.50  
 (e) ROYAL VISIT Two values .....75¢  
 (f) POSTAL CENTENNIAL 3d and 4d in blocks .....\$1.15  
 (g) SOUTHLAND CENTENNIAL Full set of three blocks - the 8d is scarce.....\$8.00  
 (h) S73a 8d MEAT The scarce one in fine block .....\$8.00  
 (i) S75a SMITHY in block.....\$1.60  
 (j) S79a 8d HAWKES BAY Another one! Block .....\$8.00  
 (k) S80a JAMBOREE Fine used plate block .....35¢  
 (l) S83a 8d MARLBOROUGH Finest block.....\$8.00  
 (m) S87a WESTLAND In block (2d also thrown in) .....\$8.00  
 (n) S91a 1/9 RAILWAY Another growth item! Block .....\$8.00  
 (o) S92a 8d COMPAC Still growing and hard to find .....\$8.00  
 (p) ANZAC ISSUE 1965 4d and 5d in blocks.....\$1.75  
 (q) S96a ITU 9d Another fine block of a scarce one.....\$2.50  
 (r) S97a 7d CHURCHILL A real sleeper this - try to find any used of this item in say five years from now. Even we may not be able to help .....\$2.50

EXPRESS DELIVERY

- 308 (a) U1a - perf 11. Lovely mint bottom selvage .....\$7.50

PIGEON POST

- 308 (b) The "agency" triangulars V.P.8. 1/- Red - good mint/unused for this difficult issue. Some gum disturbance, but stamp intact ..... \$20.00  

 (c) V.P.7, V.P.8. The pair in unused. Both stamps have hinge thins, but are otherwise in fine condition ..... \$15.00  
 (d) V.P.7. 6d Blue - unused with gum, but creased. Lovely used with minor thin (2) ..... \$25.00

LIFE INSURANCE

- 309 (a) "V.R." Set ½d Purple, 1d Blue, 2d Red Brown, 3d Brown, 6d Green, 1/- Rose - all in fine used ..... \$40.00

1898 PICTORIALS  
SOME MAJOR VARIETIES

*Included in the large lot mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter were some of the great rarities of the series. We can say without reservation that it is years since we have been able to put together such a line-up of major 1898 Pictorial rarities.*

- 105 (a) PROOFS  
E9 3d Huias Die Proof. A magnificent item. Die Proof in Yellow Brown on thin white paper, superb.....\$250.00
- Imperf Proofs From "Local" Plates  
(Horizontal mesh white wove paper)
- 106 (a) E3 1d White Terraces  
Lovely in Crimson.....\$20.00
- (b) E3 Ditto in a Brick Red.....\$20.00
- (c) E8 2½d Deep Blue.....\$20.00
- (d) E9 3d Indigo (on vertically laid paper).....\$20.00
- (e) E12 4d Blue centre, Pink frame. This proof features the major re-entry at Row 1/3 with marked doubling of the top third of the design - a beauty, and unquestionably very rare indeed.....\$40.00
- (f) E12 Ditto This time Chestnut centre, Blue frame.....\$20.00
- (g) E14 6c Kiwi plate proof in Rose Pink.....\$22.50
- (h) E14 Ditto In Brick Red.....\$25.00
- (i) E14 Ditto In Slate Purple.....\$25.00
- (j) E17 9d Terraces In Deep Carmine.....\$25.00
- (k) E17 Ditto In Carmine.....\$25.00
- (l) E17 Ditto In Slate Purple.....\$25.00
- (m) E17 Ditto In Violet.....\$25.00
- 107 (a) PERFORATION VARIETIES  
E4a 1½d Boer War Copy completely imperf. We can't guarantee it as it is a single but with its huge margins it is almost certainly from an imperf sheet or part sheet.....\$25.00
- (b) E5a 2d Pembroke Peak (Brown Lake) Nicc example of the imperf vertically variety - a pair (hinged).....\$100.00
- (c) E6d 2d Pembroke Peak (Purple) Mixed perforations resulting in a mint single (no gum) with irregular compound perfs 11x14x14x14.....\$10.00
- (d) E6d Ditto A superb bottom selvedge pair with perf lines 14 and 11 at bottom and top - a spectacular item with its huge bottom and right selvedge demonstrating so much of the nature of these perf varieties.....\$150.00
- (e) E8b 2½d Lake Wakatipu Perf 11 Unwatermarked A magnificent vertical strip of three with top selvedge: completely imperf horizontally - a beauty.....\$175.00  
(The lowest stamp shows a re-entry)
- (f) E9b 3d Huias Perf 11 Unwatermarked A strip of three completely imperf vertically.....\$150.00
- (g) E12e 4d Lake Taupo Mixed Perforations 11 and 14 A really stupendous top selvedge block of four with misplaced perf 14 strike into top selvedge and perf 11 strike to correct.....\$300.00
- (h) E14j 6d Kiwi Rose Carmine with Mixed Perforations 11 and 14 An incredible block of four of this rare one - top selvedge with the patching and mixed perfs vertically, all four stamps....\$400.00
- (i) E14e Ditto Perf 11 Watermarked Block of four imperf vertically.....\$200.00

- (j) E014g 6d Kiwi Official A right hand selvedge strip of three completely imperf vertically.....\$150.00
- Note In the case of Lots (g) to (j) above clients desiring smaller pieces or individual examples of these varieties should not be deterred from ordering.*
- (k) E21h 5/- Mt. Cook Mixed Perforations 11 and 14 (bottom selvedge) - a superb example of this very great rarity - condition perfect.....\$400.00
- PLATE VARIETIES
- 108 (a) EV18a 1/- Kea + Kaka "London" Block of four mint including the major re-entry Row 10/3 (STAGE OF "POSTAGE") a fine example and scarce in this form.....\$60.00
- (b) EV9 3d huias Perf 11 Watermarked An unlisted but really very good re-entry at Row 10/2. Bottom left selvedge block of four shows it off magnificently. Re-entry features at top right inner and outer frame.....\$20.00
- (c) EV4b 1½d Boer War Perf 14 Nice block of four shows R2/12. There is a tiny thin on the variety stamp.....\$15.00
- 4d Taupo
- (d) EV12b Row 8/10 Re-entry On Perf 11 unwatermarked. A striking variety with an extra line of colour through "ZEA" single.....\$7.50
- (e) EV12b Ditto On Perf 14. A magnificent positional block of four with selvedge.....\$25.00
- (f) EV12b Ditto P14 in block of four.....\$20.00
- (g) EV12b Ditto in selvedge positional vertical pair.....\$14.00
- (h) EV12a Perf 14 Outstanding in block of four much of top of stamp frame is doubled - particularly top frame line at left.....\$30.00
- (i) E14c 6d Kiwi Red perf 11 Unwatermarked The incredible double print. The design is completely doubled and shifted downwards considerably. One of the "vintage" items of NZ philately. Cat. at \$150 now our copy has gum disturbance and thins and we give it away at.....\$15.00
- (j) EV15a 6d Kiwi (Reduced) Perf 14. Block of four mint shows unidentified major re-entry in "Postage" and "Revenue". It is a striking item and in the future as further detective work is done on this issue will be sought after. Who knows, this block could be part of the jig-saw puzzle which will lead to the solution of the mysteries of the issue.....\$48.00
- (k) EV15a Re-entry Row 10/24 A fine one this time in used official (must be scarce thus) "downwards doubling in the "REV" of "REVENUE" and in the scrollwork at the top of the stamp".....\$15.00
- (l) E16c 8d Perf 11 Watermarked Row 5/2 in fine selvedge pos. block Much of the detail at top of the stamp shows doubling - also the pearls of the crown - one stamp pulled perf (No charge)...\$25.00
- (m) E16d Ditto Perf 14 A block of four shows in bottom left stamp re-entry lines in central top ornament (one stamp thinned - no charge).....\$20.00
- (n) E20c 2/- "Laid" Paper A copy which shows typical re-entry characteristics at lower right frame. Unusually deep shade it is a major re-entry as doubling appears throughout the word "SOUND" - super!.....\$30.00
- (o) EV20c 2/- Perf 11 Watermarked Lovely example in vertical pair of Row 6/10 "The right outer frame is doubled from the bottom corner upwards, two thirds the height of the stamp" etc. etc. - superb.....\$50.00

**C.P. NEWSLETTER — MONTHLY.**

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hd GREEN MT. COOK

Another really quite incredible coverage of an issue which is fast becoming scarce in all its variations. Traditionally it has always been a little cheaper than its sister issue, the 1d Universal. Indications are, however, that it may be a "sleeper" in the true sense. As will be seen below the specialist possibilities are enormous. All MINT all SUPERFINE.

PIRIE PAPER (WMK W6)

- 326 (a) F1a Perf 11 (wmk. 6)  
Nice set in mint Green, Pale Yellow-Green, Blackish-Green. Hard to repeat - three singles .....\$5.70
- (b) F1a Ditto Pale Yellow-Green single .....\$1.50
- (c) F1a Ditto Useful set. Pale Yellow-Green and Blackish Green in superb-looking but defective singles - useful reference ....\$1.00
- (d) F1b Perf 14 Nice block of four in Green .....\$12.00
- (e) F1b Ditto Superb single .....\$3.00
- (f) F1c Perf 14 x 11 Green shade in superb block of four .....\$30.00
- (g) F1c Ditto In Deep Green. Block of four - outstanding ....\$30.00
- (h) F1c Ditto Deep Green and Green in fine singles .....\$12.00
- (i) F1d Perf 11 x 14 A good Deep Green shade - block of four ...\$30.00
- (j) F1e Mixed Perfs 14 and 11 Fine Deep Green example in block of four .....\$80.00
- (k) F1e Ditto Lovely left hand selvedge pair with mixed perfs vertically .....\$40.00

BASTED MILLS PAPER (WMK W6)

- 327 (a) F2a Perf 11 Superb block of four of this scarce one .....\$100.00
- (b) F2a Ditto A fine mint single .....\$20.00
- (c) F2b Perf 14 Super block of four .....\$30.00
- (d) F2B Ditto Fine single .....\$6.00
- (e) F2d Perf 11 x 14 Nice single copy.....\$4.50
- (f) F2e Mixed Perfs 11 and 14 Absolutely gorgeous block of four mixed perfs vertically. Hard to repeat - if at all ..... \$225.00

COWAN UNWATERMARKED

- 328 (a) F3a Perf 11 A truly magnificent piece from the top of the sheet (with selvedge and positional arrow). Block of four in impeccable condition (unique?) ..... \$150.00
- (b) F3a Ditto Beautiful single of the rarity .....\$30.00
- (c) F3b Perf 14 Attractive single mint .....\$2.00
- (d) F3c Perf 14 x 11 Stupendous block of four of this rarity. One stamp has tiny thin, but it is a superb piece ..... \$150.00
- (e) F3e Mixed Perfs 11 and 14 Truly superb in left hand selvedge - block of four. Quite exceptional ..... \$250.00

COWAN PAPER (WMK W7)

- 329 (a) F4a Perf 11 Glorious block of four with bottom selvedge and positional arrow. One stamp shows major reentry characteristics .....\$65.00
- (b) F4a Ditto Another remarkable piece. Parts of two different sheets (different shades) have been patched together and then perforated 11. Lovely condition, the pair..... \$30.00
- (c) F4a Ditto A single of this scarce issue ..... \$12.00
- (d) F4b Perf 14 Green shade in super block of four ..... \$3.00
- (e) F4b Ditto A Green single .....60¢
- (f) F4b Ditto The lovely Deep Green in superb block .....\$7.50

½d. GREEN MT. COOK (CONTD.)

- (g) F4b Ditto Deep Green in fine single ..... \$1.50
- (h) F4b Ditto Pale Green - lovely block ..... \$3.00
- (i) F4b Ditto Pale Yellow-Green in finest block ..... \$12.50
- (j) F4b Ditto One of the most incredible shades we have seen in this issue. A "dry" print combined with an exceptional shade of Pale Green has produced a most spectacular block of four. Definitely a centre-page exhibition piece ..... \$25.00
- (k) F4b (Z) Imperf vertically (p.14) Superb in block of four ... \$2.00
- (l) F4c Perf 11 x 14 Lovely block of four - gum patchy, but the block is spectacular ..... \$7.50
- (m) F4c Ditto A nice single ..... \$3.00
- (n) F4d Perf 14 x 11 Superb Green block of four ..... \$17.50
- (o) F4d Ditto Yellow-Green in fine block of four (top selvedge with arrow) ..... \$25.00
- (p) F4d Ditto A very Deep Green in block of four. Nice contrasting item ..... \$30.00
- (q) F4d Ditto Lovely single ..... \$3.50
- (r) F4e Mixed Perfs 11 and 14 Green - really superb in block of four ..... \$20.00
- (s) F4e Ditto In Yellow-Green. Part of bottom selvedge arrow present ..... \$25.00
- (t) F4e Ditto Two stamps show mixed perfs - block of four in Deep Deep shade with bottom selvedge ..... \$15.00
- (u) F4e Ditto An extraordinary block of six from bottom selvedge All stamps showing mixed perfs. Our block is from Plate 1 and includes the scratched No.1 to the right of the central arrow. Page 200 of Vol. I "The Postage Stamps of NZ" refers "A further plate marking to indicate the number was also added in the form of more deeply engraved short vertical lines which show on the printed sheet to the lower right of the central arrow". This is an item of great rarity and must climax an already amazing listing of this issue. The block of six ...\$300.00

NEW PLATES

- 330 (a) F5a Perf 14 Very Deep Green shade in lovely block of four. Rare! ..... \$20.00
- (b) F5a Ditto Pale Yellow-Green in block of four - two stamps show a crease ..... \$5.00
- (c) F5a Ditto Nice single ..... \$2.00
- (d) F5b Perf. 14 x 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Dull Green block of four .....\$15.00
- (e) F5b Ditto Deep Yellow-Green block of four - fine .....\$7.50
- (f) F5b Ditto Deep Yellow-Green in single .....\$1.50
- (g) F5c Perf. 14 x 15 Deep Yellow-Green in block of four .....\$7.50
- (h) F5c Ditto In Pale Green - a lovely and scarce block of four.\$25.00
- (i) F5c Ditto Fine bottom selvedge strip of four in Pale Green..\$20.00
- (j) F5c Ditto Fine single .....\$1.50
- (k) F5c (W) Ditto Double Perfs An amazing block of six (2 x 3) with double strike of the p. 14 x 15 comb head affecting central pair ..... \$50.00
- (l) F5c (W) Ditto In fine block of four ..... \$30.00
- (m) F5c (W) Ditto A vertical pair - double perfs se-tenant with normal .....\$12.50
- (n) F5c (X) Ditto Flaw plate 2, Row 7/24 in pair with Row 7/23..\$12.50

½d GREEN MT. COOK

- 332 (a) F04b Cowan Perf 14 Fine single .....35¢